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I think that the settlement did far too little to curb Microsoft's exploitation of its dominant market position. When the Mafia uses tactics like those MS uses it's called the protection racket or just plain extortion. If MS cared about maximizing technological development in PC software it would stop suppressing competition (especially by buying up competitive products only to cease all development) and embrace a competitive environment. The only reason that Windows has gone as far as it has is that MS has been able to consistently strong-arm PC manufacturers buyers just assume that whatever the manufacturers install is required for their PCs to work. If there is a next time do the job right: Provide for the real possibility of competition in PC software instead of renewing MS's license to force manufacturers to install its OS (and only its OS). This sets the stage for PC manufacturers to agree to bundle MS's application packages because they run better under Windows than any others. Of course they run best--MS uses its inside knowledge of the OS to make sure that they do because they don't want competitors (which are necessary to maximize innovation) they want market share any way they can get it.